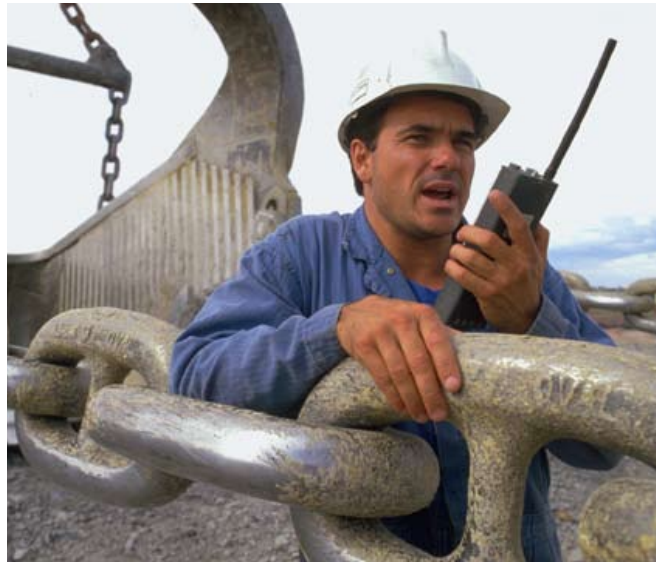


# High Power Solid State Power Amplifier System



NASA has developed a High Power Solid State Power Amplifier System that combines 1KW modules (16 amps total) to generate up to 16KW of radio frequency (RF) power from 2–30 MHz. The NASA device is a first step toward increasing the power of solid state power amp devices so that they might replace the more cumbersome vacuum tube amps for some applications. Also, when vacuum tube amps fail, a total power failure occurs. Since the NASA device, however, is a system of amplifiers, it enables graceful failure, meaning one or more stages can fail and the system will continue to operate, although at reduced power.

## Benefits

- **Reliability:** Allows graceful failure. In the event of a failure of one or more stages of the system, it continues to operate, albeit at a reduced power level.
- **Scalability** to allow variable power: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, and 16KW units are possible.
- **Lower Cost:** \$1/Watt (so \$16,000 for a 16KW unit)
- **Lower Weight:** 1 Watt of output power for every 0.1 to 1.0 pound of weight (compared to vacuum tube amps that generate 1W for every 1 to 5 pounds of weight)



## The Technology

The NASA device offers a higher power solid state power amp device that might replace the vacuum tube amps for some applications. Existing state-of-the-art power amplification at high powers has been almost exclusively provided by vacuum tube amplifiers. The power levels of current solid state power amplifiers are quite low (1–5KW) compared to the power levels of current vacuum tube amplifiers (10s of MW). However, the enormous size and weight of the vacuum tube amplifiers can be problematic. The system includes a receiver, splitters, a set of solid state amplifier units, multiport combiners, and a level control protection circuit.

## Commercial Applications

- RF induction (or dielectric) heating: for joining parts and producing hardened tempered coatings for hardware, including:
  - Metal chains
  - Locks
  - High-performance bearings for auto racing
  - Saw blades
  - Ceramics
- High Power Transmitters: for the broadcasting industry, communications systems
- Plasma generation: for cleaning ultrahigh vacuum parts

## For More Information

If you would like more information about this technology or NASA's technology transfer program, please contact:

Sammy A. Nabors  
Commercialization Manager  
Marshall Space Flight Center  
Phone: 256.544.5226  
Fax: 256.544.4810  
E-mail: sammy.nabors@nasa.gov

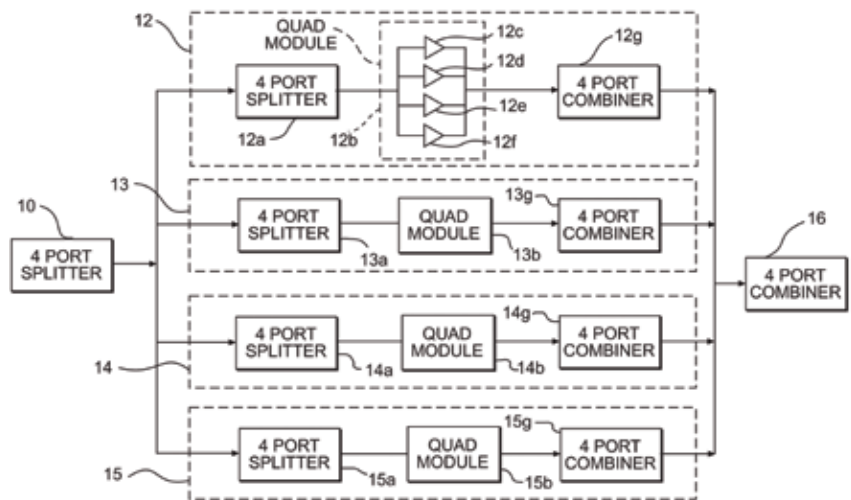
Amy Witsil  
RTI International  
Phone: 919.541.6923  
Fax: 919.544.6221  
E-mail: awitsil@rti.org

[www.nasasolutions.com](http://www.nasasolutions.com)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
**Marshall Space Flight Center**  
Huntsville, AL 35812

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

FS-2008-01-010-MSFC  
01.30.2008



## Opportunity

The technology has been prototyped and used successfully in a lab setting. NASA has filed a patent application for the technology and seeks commercial partners interested in licensing the technology for further development or commercialization.